



Ledford High School

Senior Planning Guide

Class of 2026

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DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SERVICES



Hours:	7:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Phone:	(336) 769-1216
Fax:	(336) 769-0650
School Code:	343962
Website:	bit.ly/LedfordStudentServices

Name	Position	Email
Katie Scott	Counselor Last Name A-G	katiescott@davidson.k12.nc.us
Lara Cecil	Counselor Last Name H-P	laracecil@davidson.k12.nc.us
Trish Crump	Counselor Last Name Q-Z	patriciacrump@davidson.k12.nc.us
Brittany Swing	Administrative Assistant	brittanyswing@davidson.k12.nc.us
Lynn Scott	Career Development Coordinator	lscott@davidson.k12.nc.us
Amy Buckman	School Social Worker	abuckman@davidson.k12.nc.us

SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE

SEPTEMBER

- APPLY online through CFNC.org or commonapp.org.
- KEEP TRACK of all of the college application deadlines.
- RETAKE the ACT and/or SAT if needed.
- COMPLETE the “Brag Sheet” and turn it into Student Services.
- BEGIN WORKING on your college essay if required. Make sure you consult with your English teacher for proofreading your essay.
- GO ONLINE to see what is needed for the NCAA Clearinghouse if you are planning to participate in Division I or II athletics. Speak with Mrs. Cecil *before* completing.
- In order to complete FAFSA in October, you and your parent will need to create an FSA ID at <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>

OCTOBER , NOVEMBER

- COMPLETE FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at <https://studentaid.gov>
 - FAFSA CANNOT be submitted until October 1, 2025, and it is best recommended to submit FAFSA by mid-February before funds are depleted.
 - FAFSA is now using Prior-Prior Year data. You will need 2024 tax information.
- SCHEDULE campus visits during the week.
- ATTEND one of the College Nights this fall.
- CHECK the LHS Scholarship Newsletters which are posted from October – April at <https://www.cfnc.org/apply-to-college/college-application-resources/>.
- Early October is typically the time for EARLY DECISION and/or EARLY ACTION deadlines. Be sure that you understand the difference and which one is best for you. Most REGULAR DECISION deadlines will be November – January.
- Determine if the schools to which you are applying require the CSS Profile form for financial aid. The CSS Profile is an online application used by colleges and scholarship programs to award non-federal institutional aid. Forms are available at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>. NC Schools that require the CSS Profile are Davidson College, Duke, Elon, UNC Chapel Hill, and Wake Forest University.

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL

- SEND first semester grades if requested by the college to which you applied.
- REMEMBER second semester grades are important. Your college acceptance is CONDITIONAL on satisfactory final transcript.
- MAKE a FINAL decision on the college you plan to attend and SEND your acceptance.
- Continue checking the SCHOLARSHIP list.
- TAKE the SENIOR SURVEY.

COLLEGE UPDATES

UNC INSTITUTIONS MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Class of 2026

MINIMUM COURSE REQUIREMENTS		
Content Area	Units	Future Ready Core
English	4	4 units in English – Emphasizing grammar, composition, and literature
Mathematics	4	NC Math 1, 2, and 3, and one (1) higher level math course
Science	3	Earth Science Biology Physical Science, Chemistry, or Physics
Social Studies	2	1 unit in US History
Additional Courses	2	Two additional academic courses from English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, World Languages, or Computer Science. Completion of two sequential world language courses is not required but highly recommended.
MINIMUM GPA & SAT/ACT REQUIREMENTS		
Minimum High School GPA	2.5 cumulative weighted GPA	
Minimum SAT	SAT score is only required if GPA is between 2.5-2.8 (930 or higher)	
Minimum ACT Composite	ACT score is only required if GPA is between 2.5-2.8. (17 or higher)	

COLLEGE FAIRS		
National Christian College Fair		
September 23rd	Wesleyan Christian Academy, High Point, NC	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
College Nights		
September 14th	Catawba College, Salisbury, NC	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
September 18th	Davidson Davie Community College, Lexington, NC	8:30 – 11:00 a.m.
October 2nd	Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem, NC	8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Virtual College Nights		
October 6-7	UNC System Virtual Open House	6:30 p.m.
October 13-14	UNC System Virtual Open House	6:30 p.m.
Register at https://www.northcarolina.edu/unc-system-virtual-open-house/		

NC Countdown to College 2025		
October 2nd	How to pay for college	6:00 p.m.
October 20th-26th	College application week	Mon-Sun
October 30th	Step-by-step guide on the newly released FAFSA	6:00 p.m.
December 4th	Financial Aid for students without traditional eligibility	6:00 p.m.
https://www.cfnc.org/apply-to-college/nc-countdown-to-college/for-students/		

COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

STEP 1: VISIT COLLEGE CAMPUSES

Take advantage of teacher workdays to visit college campuses. Colleges will allow prospective students to stay overnight and/or attend classes. This will help you finalize decisions. **Juniors and Seniors are allowed TWO days per year for College Visits. These days do NOT count toward exam exemptions.**

STEP 2: RESIDENCY DETERMINATION SERVICE (RDS)

Why RDS?	To qualify or be eligible for:	1. In-state TUITION at NC public colleges and universities 2. State GRANT consideration at <u>all</u> NC colleges and universities
Do RDS first!	Before you begin applications:	You will need parent/guardian assistance. NC law requires RDS to ask for parent information.
Go to RDS	Step 1	LOG IN to RDS using your CFNC account
	Step 2	UPDATE your Profile (Be accurate – SSN and Date of Birth are critical)
	Step 3	RDS ONLINE APPLICATION • Social Security number (or other identifiable number) • Tax return information, vehicle registration, and driver's license • Voter registration and other information about residency in North Carolina
	Step 4	UPLOAD documents if required
REMEMBER	Don't guess	1. RDS Checks your answers with NC State Agencies 2. Guessing = NON-Resident
	Submit documents	1. RDS shows if you need documents and which ones – not everyone does 2. UPLOAD or send to RDS
RDS STATUS SCREEN – When finished, you will see:	Your RCN & Classification Documents	1. Residency Certification Number (unique identifier never changes) 2. "Resident" or "Non-Resident" AND "In-State" or "Out-of- State" tuition
DON'T AGREE?	RECONSIDERATION is for students who: • Need to correct certain errors in the data submitted during the RDS application • Have had a change in personal circumstances since completing their current determination, or • Did not submit the required documentation within the initial consideration deadlines, or • Were requested by their campus to complete a reconsideration APPEAL is for students whose circumstances have not changed but believe their residency classification is incorrect. • Students have the ability to provide additional information and documentation relating to their appeal request and participate in a face to face hearing with RDS. • Students have 10 calendar days from the date of the determination they are appealing, or a status change due to a failed validation, to submit a Notification of Appeal through the RDS online system. • Requests for appeals are not accepted after the deadline, and the student's classification will remain non-resident. Questions? Call RDS toll-free: 844-319-3640	

ADDITIONAL RDS RESOURCES: <https://www.cfnc.org/apply-to-college/residency-determination/>

STEP 3: NARROW YOUR COLLEGE CHOICES AND BEGIN APPLYING!

- College applications are available at:
 - CFNC.org
 - N.C. College Connect: NC College Connect is a program that offers North Carolina public high school students with a weighted GPA of 2.8 and above who meet NC College Connect requirements direct admission to select colleges and universities participating in the NC College Connect program. Eligible students will see a tailored list of colleges and universities in their portal, and this list will reflect the specific institutions for which they meet the GPA requirements and any other specific admission criteria. Note, while the minimum weighted GPA for eligibility is 2.8, some participating institutions require a higher GPA for direct admission. This means that meeting the 2.8 GPA minimum does not guarantee direct admission to all NC College Connect institutions.
 - <https://www.cfnc.org/nc-college-connect/>
 - commonapp.org
 - Choose NC Program: Allows students who are not admitted to UNC Chapel Hill and NC State to automatically apply to other University of North Carolina System schools through the Common Application. Participating schools include Elizabeth City State University, UNC Asheville, UNC Greensboro, UNC Pembroke, Winston Salem State University, and Western Carolina.
- Send Transcripts (see page 9 for more information)
 - Send transcripts through CFNC.org for North Carolina Colleges/Universities or Student Services
 - If applying using Common App counselors will submit transcripts with the student's school report
- Send ACT/SAT scores if applicable (see page 9 for more information)
- Teacher Recommendations (see page 11 for more information)
 - Some schools require the submission of a letter of recommendation from teachers or counselors. Please complete your "BRAG SHEET" and turn it in to Student Services for teachers to complete.

If you choose to apply using Common App, you will need to provide information for your Common App profile. Please use the table below to help complete your Common App Profile (Select Education, Select Grades)

1. Enter graduating class size	5. GPA scale reporting: Select 4
2. Class rank reporting: Select exact	6. Enter individual GPA
3. Enter individual class rank	7. GPA weighting: Select weighted
4. Rank weighting: Select weighted	

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS CONSIDERATIONS

- Grades (GPA – both weighted and unweighted)
- Class rank
- SAT and/or ACT scores
- Extracurricular activities
- Difficulty of course work relevant to what is offered at LHS
- Recommendations from counselors, teachers, and/or other community members
- Interview (not required by all schools)
- Essay (not required by all schools)
- Community or volunteer services

TIPS ON COMPLETING YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATION

- Be cautious of how you represent yourself on social media and even in your email address. Your email address should be professional and formal (firstname_lastname@).
- COMPLETE YOUR OWN APPLICATIONS – Colleges will know if your parents completed your application.
- If your list of extracurricular activities exceeds the allotted space, list your top activities or those where you've had a leadership or other significant role.
- If a college asks for a personal statement or essay, consider this your opportunity to express your individuality in a way that will set you apart from other applicants. Write about an experience that has affected you. **ALWAYS** have your essay proofread by a teacher before submitting.

APPLICATION OPTIONS

Early Decision - A plan under which you may submit your credentials early to one college usually around October 15 of your senior year. You are notified of your status by December 1. As part of an early decision plan, **you are required to sign a statement agreeing to accept the college's offer of admission.** You must also withdraw your application from other colleges if accepted under Early Decision .

Early Action - An admission procedure to notify students of early admissions to the college. Students do NOT need to accept the college's offer of admissions. They may apply to other colleges/universities.

Points to remember are that early action and early decision candidates can be rejected. Financial awards are made in April, and candidates must have superior records because the process is highly selective.

Regular Admission - Candidates submit their application during November to February depending on the individual college. Check the deadline for each individual school.

Rolling Admission - Candidates submit their application at their convenience up to a certain date. They typically receive an offer of acceptance or rejection within 4-6 weeks (used by Community Colleges).

DECISIONS

Offer of Conditional Admittance - An acceptance to a college **provided you maintain your academic performance throughout the year.** A college can withdraw its offer if your grades fall significantly, if your course rigor changes after admission, or if you are involved in activity that results in disciplinary action by the school or law enforcement.

Denial - A final decision by the college to not offer admission. Students who are denied can apply

again after completing at least one semester of college coursework elsewhere.

Deferment - A delay of admissions decision until a later time. Many competitive schools will defer fall applications to the spring in order to receive additional grades and other information.

Waitlisted - Occurs after the regular admissions process is complete. There is no guarantee a college will go to the waitlist or where an applicant will rank on the waitlist. Students on a waitlist for one college should plan to attend another college and then reconsider if later offered admission.

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION RESOURCES: <https://www.cfnc.org/apply-to-college/college-application-resources/>

STEP 4: CREATE FSA ID

In order to complete FAFSA, you and your parent will need to create an FSA ID at <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>. The FSA ID (username and password) allows individuals to access Federal Student Aid websites and complete the FAFSA form online. Students and contributors (parents or spouses) are required to have an FSA ID to complete and sign the online FAFSA form.

STEP 5: FAFSA

Complete the FAFSA form online at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. FAFSA will be available for students on October 1, 2025. All students applying for federal financial aid must file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form. The FAFSA is the only application students must complete to be considered for all federal financial aid including:

- Pell grants
- Supplemental education opportunities
- Stafford loans
- Perkins loans
- Work study
- Grants
- Other federal financial aid programs

WHAT WILL YOU AND YOUR CONTRIBUTOR NEED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA?

To complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, you will need:

- An FSA ID
- Your Social Security number
- Your federal income tax returns (prior-prior year: 2024), W-2s, and other records of money earned. (**Note:** You may be able to transfer your federal tax return information into your FAFSA using the Direct Data Exchange).
- Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Records of untaxed income (if applicable)

FAFSA TERMS

- Contributor: A contributor is anyone required to provide a signature on the FAFSA form as well as consent and approval to have their federal tax information transferred directly from the IRS into the Free Application for Federal Student Aid FAFSA form. This may include the student, a student's spouse, a biological or adoptive parent, or a parent's spouse or partner.
- Student Aid Index: SAI is an eligibility index number that your college's or career school's financial aid office uses to determine how much federal student aid you would receive if you attend the school. This number results from the information that you (and other contributors, if required) provide on your FAFSA. It ranges from -1500 to 999999. A negative SAI indicates the student has a higher financial need. Your SAI is **not** a dollar amount of aid you'll receive, what your family is expected to provide, or your final financial aid offer.

DETERMINING FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

- Parent Contribution (FAFSA) + Student Contribution (FAFSA) = Student Aid Index (SAI)
- Cost of Attendance (COA) – Student Aid Index (SAI) = Financial Need

ADDITIONAL FAFSA RESOURCES

- CFNC FAFSA: <https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/fafsa-101/>

SENDING TRANSCRIPTS AND SAT/ACT SCORES

HOW TO:

Send a transcript to any North Carolina College/University & Community College

Transcripts must be sent electronically by the student through the CFNC.org website. There is no charge for transcripts to be sent from CFNC.org.

****If you are applying through Commonapp, a counselor will submit your transcript.**

1.	Go to CFNC.org	
2.	Log into your account	○ If you do <u>NOT</u> have an account, please create a new one. ○ If you <u>DO</u> have an account and forgot your username and password, visit Student Services. ○ If you are <u>UNSURE</u> if you have an account or not, visit Student Services. DO NOT CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT!
3.	Click “Apply to College”	
4.	Click “Application Hub”	Select “Request a Transcript”
5.	Verify information	Verify the following information is correct: ○ First and last name ○ Student number ○ Email address ○ Gender ○ Date of birth ○ Current high school Your demographic information must match 100% with your information in your high school’s database. You can pull up your demographic information in Infinite Campus to match with your CFNC. You can make changes to your profile by going to “My CFNC”> “Your Profile”> “This is Me”
6.	Search for school	Once the school is found, select “Request my transcript.”
7.	Monitor transcript	In “Application Hub,” you can monitor when the transcript is uploaded by the receiving university/college.

Send SAT/ACT or transcripts scores for scholarship applications, NCAA, out-of-state Colleges/University, and out-of-state Community Colleges.

Student services can send your SAT/ACT scores or transcript for you. You may request this by signing up on the clipboard in the Student Services office. Check to indicate whether you plan to pick up the transcript (allow 48 hours) or prefer it to be mailed. When the transcript is picked up, it will be in a sealed envelope.

Colleges require that they remain sealed.

STANDARDIZED TESTING INFORMATION

SAT Reasoning Test (Scholastic Aptitude Test)

Measures critical reading, mathematics, and writing ability. It can predict college performance. Colleges select the best critical reason, math, and writing score for admission criteria.

To register for the SAT, go to www.collegeboard.com

FEE: \$68

ACT (American College Test)

Measures educational achievement in English, Math, Reading, Science, and Writing. Colleges select the best scores from each area for admissions criteria. The ACT also predicts performance of the freshman year in college.

To register for the ACT, go to www.act.org

FEE: Writing - \$94.00

No Writing - \$69.00

Testing accommodations for disabilities may be available.

Check for accommodation information on the testing center website or in the registration bulletin.

Ledford High School Test Code or CEEB Code is 343962

SAT 2025-2026	
Test Date	Registration Deadline
October 4, 2025	September 19, 2025
November 8, 2025	October 24, 2025
December 6, 2025	November 21, 2025
March 14, 2026	February 27, 2026
May 2, 2026	April 17, 2026
June 6, 2026	May 22, 2026

ACT 2025-2026	
Test Date	Registration Deadline
October 18, 2025	September 12, 2025
December 13, 2025	November 7, 2025
February 14, 2026	January 9, 2026
April 11, 2026	March 6, 2026
June 13, 2026	May 8, 2026
July 11, 2026	June 5, 2026

***All Junior students will take the ACT for free at Ledford High School late February early March 2026.**

Fee Waivers

- SAT and ACT fee waivers are available for economically disadvantaged students. See your school counselor or the College Board website for details and guidelines.
- Fee waivers cannot be used for late registration for the ACT.
- Students using a fee waiver for the SAT or ACT may qualify for College Application FeeWaivers. See your school counselor for details and guidelines.

COUNSELOR AND TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation letters provide colleges and other organizations a holistic picture of your character, personal qualities, passions, and/or challenges that cannot be conveyed by grades or test scores.

Do I need a letter of recommendation?

- Not all colleges require a **Letter of Recommendation** to accompany your application. Check the freshman admission website for each college on your list to see if one is required.
- **NOTE:** If applying to schools on the Common Application, the Counselor **Letter of Recommendation** will automatically be completed by your school counselor if the school to which you are applying requires it.

How do I request a letter of recommendation?

- You can submit your “Brag Sheet” (see Page 10) to Student Services at least two weeks in advance.
- Teachers and counselors will NOT complete a **Letter of Recommendation** without a completed “Brag Sheet.”
- Once your “Brag Sheet” is completed, you may turn it into Student Services. A copy of the “Brag Sheet” is kept in Student Services throughout your entire senior year. As you need **Letters of Recommendation** from teachers, you may stop by Student Services to make copies of the “Brag Sheet” to be provided to teachers. Please provide faculty and staff at least **TWO WEEKS** to complete a letter of recommendation.

BRAG SHEET
TEACHER/COUNSELOR/PRINCIPAL RECOMMENDATION FORM

Student Name: _____

In the event that you need teachers, counselors, or a principal to provide a letter of recommendation, the following information will be helpful. We cannot prepare a meaningful recommendation without your input; therefore, we request that you put some time and thought into completing the following form. **Please allow TWO weeks for the teacher/counselor/principal to complete your letter of recommendation.**

1. Is your high school academic record an accurate measure of your ability and potential? If not, what do you consider the best measure of your potential or success in college?
2. What circumstances, if any, have interfered with your academic performance?
3. List any clubs in which you have participated and any leadership position you have held in those clubs.
4. List any athletic programs in which you have participated. List any recognition(s) received.
5. List any academic awards you have received.
6. List any offices you have held (i.e. student council, class officer, etc.).
7. List any community service projects in which you have participated (i.e. volunteer work in nursing homes, clean-up campaigns, literacy projects, etc.).
8. List other extracurricular activities in which you have participated (i.e. band, chorus, color guard, etc.) and any special recognition you have received.
9. What have you gained personally by your involvement in extracurricular activities? How has your involvement been beneficial to your school?
10. List any jobs you have held.
11. Has any summer experience, job, or study been of significant importance to you? Please explain.

12. What are your proudest personal accomplishments?
13. List five adjectives that best describe you.
14. What are your greatest strengths?
15. What special aspect of your personality would you most like a college to know about you through a letter of recommendation? What makes you unique?
16. Do you have a financial need? (i.e. sibling in college, etc.)
17. Is there anything else you would like to express about yourself to assist a counselor or teacher in making an accurate appraisal of you to colleges and universities?
18. List any other pertinent family information.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE INFORMATION

Students may decide to begin post-secondary education at a community college. North Carolina residents pay in-state tuition at all of NC's 58 colleges. Community colleges have an "Open Door Policy" which provides admission to any person who has reached the age of 18 or has graduated from high school. **Students wishing to enroll at a community college should contact the respective college's admissions office to set up an appointment with an academic advisor.**

Programs for all educational levels are offered including non-credit programs for personal and professional enrichment and credit programs where one can earn a certificate, diploma, or Associate's degree in a field of study. Two degrees are offered: Associate in Arts (A.A.) and Associate in Science (A.S.) By enrolling in this program, you may complete course work equivalent to the general education requirements (freshman and sophomore years) to apply toward a Bachelor's degree at a four-year school. The A.A. or A.S. is awarded upon successful completion of 64 semester credit hours including the minimum in each of the areas indicated on the specific curriculum outlines. Earning the A.A. or A.S. degree fulfills the MCR (Minimum Course Requirements) for NC four-year college admissions.

THE COLLEGE TRANSFER PROGRAM

In order to get the best price for their time and money, many students are choosing to enroll at their local community college in the NC College Transfer Program. This program consists of a set of courses designed to transfer to most four-year colleges and universities in North Carolina. <https://www.northcarolina.edu/Transfer-Students/NC-Community-College-Transfer>

What courses will transfer to UNC Institutions?

The NC Community College common course library lists courses that have been approved for transfer. Transferring students must have earned a grade of "C" or better in a course in order to get transfer credit. Grades of "D" or "F" will **not** transfer.

How many semester hours will transfer?

A maximum of 64 semester hours will transfer if the student has enrolled in the transfer program. The student should consult with an academic advisor since special program articulations may exist between community colleges and four-year colleges and universities in North Carolina or elsewhere that may permit the transfer of additional credit hours. For more information, visit www.ncccommunitycolleges.edu

North Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities (NCICU)

NCICU and the North Carolina Community College System have partnered to facilitate a successful transfer of course credits for students moving from two-year colleges to four-year private colleges and universities in the state. The new initiative will leverage technology from Acadeum to streamline the transfer process and reduce credit loss. For more information, visit <https://ncicu.org/>

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship money and financial aid are usually grouped into two major categories: **need-based** and **merit-based**. **Need-based** aid takes into consideration a family's financial status. **Merit-based** scholarships are based on a student's academic qualification without regard to financial need. Some scholarships (usually local) consider both academic success and financial need.

To increase your chances of being successful, focus on the following steps:

1. Investigate via internet or contact the financial aid office of the college to which you are applying and request scholarship information and a scholarship application. **Apply early**; many schools have deadlines in November and December of your senior year.
2. Check the **Ledford Scholarship List** that is posted monthly and emailed to you. This list is posted on the Ledford web site **lhs.davidson.k12.nc.us**. **The majority of the local scholarships are announced during February and March.**
3. Don't forget to contact your employers, your parent employer, civic groups, and religious organizations in which you are involved. These are good sources of potential scholarships.
4. If you are interested in pursuing the possibility of an athletic scholarship ask your high school coach for an assessment of your chances of obtaining athletic aid and how he or she can help you with the process. In most cases, college coaches will contact high school coaches directly for information about your abilities, so it is important to let high school coaches know of your interest. You can also contact college athletic departments to express interest in their programs.
5. Please beware of scholarship scams! Avoid programs that "guarantee" scholarships, or require fees for matching you with scholarships. Many solicitors invite you to meetings at local hotels or try to arrange private meetings at your home. Doing business with such organizations is strongly discouraged.

ATHLETICS

If you are planning to participate in Division I or II athletics, the NCAA Clearinghouse must certify you. Please speak with Mrs. Cecil prior to registering. This process does not affect recruitment. It only determines your initial eligibility for your freshman year. The website for the clearinghouse is www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES & SEARCH ENGINES

American Indian College Fund	https://collegefund.org
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators	www.nasfaa.org
Broke Scholar	www.brokescholar.com
College Net	www.collegenet.com
College Parents	www.collegeparents.org
College View	www.collegeview.com
Go College	www.gocollege.com
Career One Stop	www.acinet.org
US Department of Labor	https://www.bls.gov/ooh/
Big Future	http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org
NC State Education Assistance Authority	www.ncseaa.edu
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities	www.naicu.edu
National Center for Education Statistics	https://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/
oScholarships	www.scholarships.com
United Negro College Fund	www.uncf.org
US Department of Education	www.ed.gov
Chegg	http://www.chegg.com/
Hispanic Scholarship Fund	https://www.hsf.net/scholarship
O*Net	www.onetcenter.org
North Carolina Department of Commerce	Commerce.nc.gov

CAREER PLANNING

Five Stages of Career Planning:

- STEP 1: TAKE CAREER SELF-ASSESSMENTS.
- STEP 2: IDENTIFY AND RESEARCH OPTIONS.
- STEP 3: EVALUATE AND PRIORITIZE.
- STEP 4: TAKE ACTION AND TRY OPTIONS.
- STEP 5: REFLECT AND RE-EVALUATE.

(Taken from: <https://ocs.yale.edu/blog/2022/12/11/explore-five-step-career-decision-making-process/>)

Career Pathway Checklist:

Students...Have you:

- ☒ Taken a Career Interest Inventory?
- ☒ Talked to your parent(s)/guardian(s) about your future plans?
- ☒ Researched Jobs in career fields you are interested in?
- ☒ Know what education you need/school to attend next in order to get that job?
- ☒ Talked to an employed adult about what they like and dislike about their job?
- ☒ Made a decision about your next college/career move?

Parents...Have you:

- ☒ Taken a Career Interest Inventory with your child?
- ☒ Talked to your child about future plans?
- ☒ Researched career fields and given your child potential careers to research?
- ☒ Talked to your child about what education they need for their next steps?
- ☒ Helped your child make a decision about the next steps in their career plan?

A great place to start: [NCCareers.org](https://www.nccareers.org/)! Create a Plan and Research what you need to get on the right career path!

Current “4-year school” alternatives:

- Davidson-Davie Apprenticeship Consortium: [DDACapprentice.org](https://ddacapprentice.org)



- Nucor Academy: [Nucor.com/Nucor-technical-academy](https://nucor.com/nucor-technical-academy)



Ledford’s Virtual Career Center: bit.ly/virtualcareercenter

WEBSITE	DESCRIPTION
Ledford High School Website https://lhs.davidson.k12.nc.us/	Check here often for information for seniors and scholarships.
The College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) www.cfnc.org	Research and apply to four-year and two-year colleges in North Carolina, send transcripts to in-state community colleges and four-year universities, learn about careers and college majors.
The North Carolina Community College System www.nccommunitycolleges.edu	Research the 58 community colleges in North Carolina.
The College Board www.collegeboard.com	Register and prepare for the SAT and AP Testing.
The American College Test www.act.org	Register and prepare for the ACT.
Peterson's www.petersons.com	Search colleges by GPA, tuition, sports, and more.
The Princeton Review https://www.princetonreview.com/	Prepare for standardized tests, research colleges and majors.
The NCAA Eligibility Center https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/	Register for Division I and Division II college athletics and monitor academic eligibility.
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) www.studentaid.gov	Find information on the use of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is the primary way to find out if the family or student qualifies for grants, loans, and work study programs. The FAFSA also screens for a limited number of state-based scholarships. Only students who are US citizens should apply.
Fast Web www.fastweb.com	Use this free, searchable scholarship database.
Kaplan www.kaplan.com	Kaplan is one of the world's largest and most diverse education providers. This website can prep high school students for the SAT, so they can enter college.
Career Key www.careerkey.org	Provides information on careers from the Department of Labor Occupational Outlook Handbook.
United States Department of Defense www.todaysmilitary.com	Take a look at careers within the military as well as entrance requirements.
Major Clarity Majorclarity.com	Students log in with their school google account to take career assessments and explore careers.
LHS Virtual Career Center bit.ly/virtualcareercenter	Provides resources for career planning.